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STATINTL

Threat grows of American intervention in Jordan

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The threat of U.S. intervention in the Jordan crisis grew on Friday as Washington set up two special task forces to deal with the situation. White House spokesmen said President Richard Nixon was "very much involved" with Jordan and concerned about American residents there.

A flood of reports from "U.S. officials" in Amman, the capital of Jordan, said that Palestinian resistance forces were stealing American cars, raping American women, and that there was "widespread destruction of American property." Later, all these reports were described as "unconfirmed" and "based on fragmentary information."

Administration officials revealed Friday in Washington that the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, had been placed on alert late Thursday as part of emergency plans to deal with the Jordan crisis. The officials denied that the U.S. was on the point of intervening militarily in Jordan.

Marines to the 'rescue'

Also on Thursday, the White House Special Action Group, headed by Henry A. Kissinger,

Nixon's National Security Adviser, and composed of leading State and Defense Department officials, discussed how to use U.S. Marines from the Sixth Fleet to "rescue" the 535 American citizens in Jordan.

But the U.S. State Dept. announced on Friday that an emergency civil airlift would evacuate about 100 U.S. citizens from Jordan to the safety of fascist Greece and that Palestinian forces in Amman had released 84 foreigners they had been holding hostage in two hotels.

A newly-established special task force on Jordan was functioning in the State Dept., headed by former U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Harrison M. Symmes. Symmes is listed in the book, *Who's Who in the CIA* (Berlin, 1968), as being involved in Central Intelligence Agency work

since 1955. His ouster was demanded by Palestinian forces in Jordan last April. They accused Symmes of being a CIA agent and of working closely with Jordan's army and intelligence service to crush resistance groups.

King Hussein of Jordan announced late Thursday night on Radio Amman that he had fired his uncle, Sherif Nasser Ben Jamil, as commander-in-chief of Jordan's armed forces, and was taking over the job himself. Also dismissed by Hussein was Gen. Sherif Zaid Ben Shaker.

The Palestinian resistance had demanded that both be removed from their posts, along with former premier Wasfi Tal and former Jordan intelligence chief Rasul el-Kallani. All four earlier this year were named as those plotting with Symmes and the CIA to put down the resistance.

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